K.

REPORT FROM THE INDIAN OFFICE.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
Office of Indian Affairs, November 20, 1826.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War:

SIR: I had the honor on the 4th instant, of furnishing the estimate in two papers, No. 1 & 2, of the amount which will be required to be appropriated for the current expenses of the Indian Department for the year 1827, to wit: $181,224. The demand for the increase over the amount appropriated for the last year, to wit: $25,124, arises out of new obligations incurred by treaty; and by an extension of our Indian relations, a reference to which I have had the honor more fully to make in my letter of the 4th instant.

The amount of money disbursed in the Indian Department for the three last quarters of the present year, that is, to the 30th of September, is: $820,080 00; and the amount for the settlement of which returns have been received within the same period, is $573,732 00, leaving to be accounted for $246.348 00. This deficiency, if it can be so called, is, however, only apparent. It arises in great part out of remittances which have been made to Superintendents and Commissioners, for certain objects which have not yet been fully accomplished; and out of the difference between the period in which, by the act of Congress amendatory of the act of 1802, approved May 6, 1822, the Agents are required to make their returns, which is to the 1st day of September in each year; and the period, to wit: the 30th of September, embraced by the call for a statement of the disbursements and receipts. The Agents making their returns up to the 1st of September in conformity to the act of Congress, they show only their disbursements *up* to that date; whilst they are charged with whatever they may have had remitted to them for application *to the 30th* of the month. The result is, an apparent balance against the Agent, and for just the amount which he may have on hand on the 1st of September, and which may be applicable to the objects for which it was remitted to the close of the third quarter of the year.

It is believed that of the entire amount disbursed, not a cent will be lost; and that as soon as the application of the money is made on account of the objects for which it has been remitted to the several Agents charged with its application, returns will be received for every dollar.

The amount of demands for this year against the provision of $10,000, on account of education of Indian children, as per act of 3d March, 1819, appropriating that sum for the civilization of the Indians, is $13,783 33⅓.

This act went into operation before those to whom it was deemed best to entrust its humane provisions, were fully prepared to engage in their application. The sum consequently increased, and a surplus arose out of this state of things. This surplus in the first years after

the passage of the act was considerable; but it had become reduced in the last year to $3,550 00; and now the whole of it is absorbed, and every dollar of the appropriation is disposed of in the apportionments which have been made towards the support of the schools that are in operation under the regulations of the Department. It is to be regretted that the sum at the disposal of the Department for an object so beneficent, and which is in such exact conformity to the principles of our Government, should be so limited; and especially now when experience has demonstrated the utility of the plan, and that success is attending it whenever it has been put in operation. It is a lamentable fact, that hundreds of Indian children are turned away, annually, from those nurseries of kindness, for want of ability on the part of the Superintendents to receive them. Numerous applications for assistance, and from the most respectable societies are now on file in this office, to which it has not been possible to return any other answer than that *the fund appropriated by the Congress is exhausted.*

It is respectfully, but earnestly recommended, that the sum be increased. The personal inspection which I have been able to make during the last Summer of some of the schools, that, for example, at Michilimackinac, and that near Buffalo, in the State of New York, on the Seneca Reserve, has confirmed all my previous convictions of the vast benefits which the Indian children are deriving from these establishments; and which go further, in my opinion, towards securing our borders from bloodshed, and keeping the peace among the Indians themselves, and attaching them to us, than would the physical force of our Army, if employed exclusively towards the accomplishment of those objects.

It is respectfully suggested whether, after the Indian children shall have passed through a course of instruction, and made capable thereby of taking care of themselves, some suitable provision of another kind ought not to be made for them. If, after they shall have acquired a knowledge of letters, and of the arts, they are thrown back into uneducated Indian settlements, is it not to be apprehended that the labor of instructing them, and the expense attending it, will be lost? To make the plan effective, therefore, and to follow out its humane designs, it is respectfully recommended that, as these youths are qualified to enter upon a course of civilized life, sections of land be given to them, and a suitable present to commence with, of agricultural or other implements suited to the occupations in which they may be disposed, respectively, to engage. They will then have become, an "intermediate link between our own citizens, and our wandering neighbors, softening the shades of each, and enjoying the confidence of both." For a further illustration of this subject, I beg leave respectfully to refer to the report of the Commissioners which accompanies the treaty recently concluded at the Fond du Lac Superior.

The number of schools, their location, and number of teachers to each, and the number of pupils, are all shown in the accompanying

paper marked A. The reports from all of the schools are flattering, indeed, some of them remarkable, as indicating the extraordinary advances making by the children in all the branches of practical, and moral, and religious improvement.

In addition to the schools enumerated, there is one at Great Crossings, in Kentucky, at which are fifty-four children. This school was established by the Choctaws, and is supported out of their own resources, under the direction of the President of the United States. The Creeks, impressed with the important benefits of education, appropriated part of their means, arising out of the treaty of 22d April, 1826, for the education of some of their children at the same school. Thirty-five children have been added to the schools during the present year; and fifty-four received into the Choctaw Academy. Last year the number was 1159; and this year 1248, making an increase of 89.

Provision was made at the last session of Congress for holding treaties with certain Indian tribes on Lake Superior, and at Green Bay; in Indiana and Mississippi. Commissioners were duly appointed for holding these treaties, and treaties have been entered into accordingly with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, and with the Miamies and Pottawatomies of Indiana. For reasons which will appear in the report of the Commissioners who negotiated the treaty on Lake Superior, no Council was held at Green Bay. A treaty was held, by the Commissioners appointed for that object, in Indiana, which, together with the treaty of Fond du Lac Superior, and the proceedings under both I have the honor to enclose herewith. No returns have yet been received from the Commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Choctaws and Chickasaws of the State of Mississippi.

Measures have been duly taken to carry into effect the act of Congress of 20th May, 1826, making appropriations for defraying the expense of negotiating and carrying into effect certain Indian treaties; the act of the same date, to aid certain Indians of the Creek nation in their removal West of the Mississippi; the act making appropriation to carry into effect a treaty concluded between the United States and the Creek nation, and ratified 22d April, 1826; and an act for the relief of the Florida Indians. The treaty with the Creeks has been carried into effect; the condition money paid, and in the mode prescribed by the Congress, and the returns made by the Agent, to the Department.

Information having been received by the Department of the hostile dispositions of the Osages and Delawares towards each other, and that a war of extermination was likely to be waged between those tribes and their allies, your instructions were complied with, in addressing letters to the Agents of the Department to interfere, and by their counsels, put a stop, if possible, to the threatened tragedy. Letters received from General Clark of the 12th ultimo, accompanied by a treaty of peace between those tribes, and which I have the honor to submit herewith, shew that a war, so fatal in its effects as

that promised to be, has been, by the interference of that officer happily avoided.

The Commissioners appointed under the act of 3d March, 1825, to mark out a road from the Western Frontier of Missouri, to the Confines of New Mexico, having been by the first article of that act authorized to hold treaties with the intervening tribes of Indians, to obtain their consent to the making of said road, and the undisturbed use thereof to the citizens of the United States, and of the Mexican Republic, have reported no treaties subsequent to those made with the Osages and Kanzas, and which were ratified the 3d of May last.

An informal treaty was entered into between the late Peter Wilson, Sub-agent on the Missouri, and the Assiniboins; informal only because he had no power to make it. The provisions are proper, and as these Indians are sometimes troublesome, it is respectfully suggested whether due powers should not be conferred on the successor of Mr. Wilson, with instructions to make a treaty upon the same basis. I have the honor to enclose the treaty, together with the letter from General Clark, which accompanied it, to the Department.

To that part of your order which forms the basis of this report, which directs me to add such remarks as I may think proper in relation to the administration of the Indian Department, I beg leave respectfully to refer to an act which was reported by the Committee of Indian Affairs, of the House of Representatives at the last session as embracing, in my opinion, all that will be required to give promptitude and efficiency to this branch of our Government relations.

All which is respectfully submitted.

THO. L. McKENNEY.

L.

REPORT FROM THE PENSION OFFICE.

War Department,

Pension Office, Oct. 12, 1826.

Sir: In conformity with your order of the 3d instant, I have the honor to transmit herewith the statements marked A, B, and C, which will shew what sums have been sent to the agents during the year ending on the 4th of last month, the number of deaths reported during the same period, and the number of pensioners on the rolls of the several States and Territories. The number of pensioners added to the Revolutionary rolls for that time, is two hundred and forty-six; and the number added to the invalid list is forty-nine.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. EDWARDS.

Hon. James Barbour,

Secretary of War.

W A Coleman

Intelligencer.

DECEMBER 14, 1827. No. 4644.

Official Papers.

DOCUMENTS

ACCOMPANYING THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR – *Concluded*

Indian Affairs.

CHICKASAW NATION, *10th October*, 1827.

TO THE HON. JAMES BARBOUR, *Sec. of War.*

SIR: I have met the Chickasaw Chiefs in Council, and, in pursuance of your instructions, ascertained their views in regard to their removal West of the Mississippi. They consent to go, on the following basis: First, That provision be made for three Chiefs from each of their Districts, (there are four of these,) three white men of their own choosing, and a Physician, to be joined by three scientific men from Washington, or elsewhere, to be appointed by the Government, to go with them and visit the country, and judge of its fitness in soil, climate, &c. They agree to go upon this business of examination on the first of May next.

Second: If they approve of the country, they consent to accept it, acre for acre, for theirs, *provided* it be cleared of every body, and guarantied to them forever; and provided they be placed upon it, in such improvements as, on examination, they may be found to own here, in houses, mills, fences, orchards, stock, &c.; and provided the country be laid off into counties, and schools established in sufficient number for the education of their sons and daughters, and a Government be established over them, upon the basis of that of the Michigan Territory; and provided that a suitable force be kept among them to secure them from harm, which they propose to augment by an organization of their people upon the plan of our militia; the whole to embrace, on their part, political privileges and civil advantages, as these are laid down in your report.

I need not tell you that I found the subject one of extreme delicacy, and the way to it almost wholly barred by excited prejudices and a deep sense of wrongs, long endured. Upon a full survey of the whole ground, from Saturday till yesterday, I concluded there was but one way of approach; this I attempted, and it succeeded, as stated.

I will have the honor of forwarding, the moment I can find time to copy them, my address, with a minute of the proceedings of the Council, and the answer of the Chiefs. The Council included all the Chiefs of the Nation, except three; and these three were prevented by causes, over which they had no control, from attending; but the nation will bear out those who have acted; and it now remains for the Government to sanction and confirm the understanding, or to decline it.

I shall leave here, in half an hour, for the Choctaw nation, having sent runners ahead to Col. Ward, to assemble the Chiefs to meet me. I write in haste, and in my tent, and on my knee; not a little fatigued from the anxiety and toil of yesterday, and from being up till late, concluding and signing the conditional understanding with these people.

The Rev. Messrs. Stuart and Bell, and Blair and Holmes attended the council. It affords me sincere pleasure to state, that those gentlemen most heartily co-operate with the Government on the subject of removing, to a permanent and suitable home, these long oppressed people. They agree that the salvation of these people can be secured in no other way. You may rely upon it, the Chickasaws are honest in their designs to fulfil every *tittle* of their obligations, if their terms are accepted. I believe it is the only ground on which they will listen to an exchange of country; and, I must [illegible] we ought to ask of them to assume no other.

I [illegible] honor to be, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

THOS L. McKENNEY.

I omitted to add that a condition is inserted, providing for reservations for some of their people, not exceeding *twenty*.

I could not do else, after so unexpectedly favorable a result, than make these Chiefs, some of them aged and poor, and who came from twenty to fifty miles to meet me, without knowing for what, (for I kept every thing to myself till yesterday, except to tell them I had come to see them, and to counsel them as their friend,) a present of $50 each, and the lesser Chiefs $25, with a present of goods, amounting to about $245, for their families; in all, about $750, on bills to each one, on Major Smith, with authority to him to draw on you for their respective amounts.

This is a cheap Council. I have promised a medal to each Chief, in addition, and some three or four rifles to the young men. I have tried to give pleasure to all, and, I believe, have succeeded.

THOS. L. M'KENNEY.

MAYHEW MISSION STATION,
Choctaw Country, Oct. 10, 1827.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR, Secretary of War.

SIR: I had the honor of writing to you yesterday, from the Chickasaw Nation, thirty-five miles from this, [illegible] I had the day before concluded a conditional arrangement with the Chiefs of that nation, for an exchange of their country; the outlines of which arrangement I had the honor, in that letter, hastily to embody. I now enclose, herewith, copies of my address, their answer, and my reply, marked A, B, and C.

It will be seen, from my address, that I acted as well for the Indians as for the Government; and, from their answer, that the address was, in all things, fully responded to. It may, perhaps, be proper for me to explain why I assumed to act in this two-fold character; and why the Indians were not left to propose their own terms. It might be sufficient for me to state, that I have [illegible] rate the justice and [illegible] of the Government from the best interests of the Indians; and assuming this to be true, my duty, to say nothing of policy, embraced not only the province of a negotiator on the part of the Government, but, *under the existing state of things*, of moderator, and, so far as I might esteem it essential to the great object in view, *guide* also. And it might be added, that no exception ought to be taken against the adoption of any means, that are in themselves moral and just, which may be used with the view of accomplishing a righteous end; and surely none, if those means result, as in the present case, in the accomplishment of such an end. But I prefer to be more particular. Aware of the settled dislike of these people to any thing in the shape of a direct proposition for their country; and that recent negotiations, though conducted by three distinguished citizens, chosen, no less on account of their intelligence, than for their admitted knowledge of the Indian character, had totally failed; and that the large amount of means, which, by Congressional appropriation, had been placed at their disposal, as an auxiliary aid, had been equally inoperative; it would have been presumptuous in me, when employed in the same service, and so immediately after the recent failure, and unsupported by a single dollar, to have occupied any one of the positions assumed by those Commissioners; or to have approached the subject by any one of the avenues which had been trodden by them. There appeared to me to be one way, and *only* one way, left, and that was the way of my preference, and would have been, under any circumstances. But, although thus restricted by my views of the subject, I felt the greater enlargement, and more confirmed hopes of success. The way, in a word, was precisely that in which, from my heart, I preferred to approach these people. Accordingly, I gave out, on entering the nation, that my visit was a visit of friendship; that I had taken a long journey to see and shake hands with my brothers, the Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation; and as they were scattered over the country, and my time was short, I hoped they would meet me at Levi Colbert's, where I would remain a few days, to give them time to come in. And to make sure of their receiving this message, I sent runners, where I could do so, to deliver it to the Chiefs, personally. On arriving at Colbert's, which was on the 8th day after leaving Memphis, (visiting, in my way, in pursuance of your instructions, the Missionary Establishments, which, together with my visits to the Agencies on my entire route, also in pursuance of your instructions, will form the subject of a special communication,) I found I had been preceded by Major James Colbert, and the old Interpreter, McGee, who, on receiving my message, had hastened to meet me. I was received by Levi Colbert, who is the Counsellor of the Nation, and by these two men, with every demonstration of gladness. I repeated the message that I had sent through their country; when Levi Colbert, in reply to the hope I expressed that I should not be disappointed, asked how long I could remain? I answered, until Monday. If, said he, you will tarry till Wednesday, I will try and have them all in, and, if possible, by Tuesday at 12 o'clock. I consented; when he immediately sent off runners, from twenty to fifty miles round. Meanwhile, the Chiefs began to arrive, until, by Monday night, they had all come in, except three, and two of these were sick, and one was absent. One of the former, however, sent an aid to represent him. Each Chief met me with the utmost cordiality, and in terms of friendship and confidence that it would be tedious to state. I will, however, note the language of Levi Colbert: "It makes my heart glad, Brother," said he, "to see you. I feel as if some good thing was to happen to us." Then, grasping my hand, he continued, "Yes, and never since about three years ago, when I left my son with you, have I gone to sleep without having you before my eyes. You are our friend, and we all look upon your visit as a great blessing, for we are in trouble."* I replied, that a regard for them, and a strong desire to see them, and to see them happy, had brought me into their country; that their troubles, of whatever sort they might be, should have my closest attention, and such as I could relieve on the spot, I would; and such as I could not, I would take home to their Great Father, at Washington, who looked upon them as his children, and would listen attentively to their cries; and then added, that I knew of some of their troubles, and serious enough they were; and, if they would meet me, in council, in the morning, I would prove to them that I was their friend, by showing them the way to become a great and a happy people, and by advice in other things, which, if they regarded their own happiness, and the happiness of their children, I hoped they would take. They greeted this language like a people would the return of milder and calmer seasons, after having been long buffetted by storms and tempests, and replied: "*We know you well*; we promise to meet you in council, and listen well to what you may say." I then prepared the address, as it now stands, giving none of them, meanwhile, the slightest conception of the nature of the advice to which I had referred, nor had they any idea of it, until it was disclosed by the address itself, in council.

It may now be seen why I adopted the course I did. I found myself surrounded by a people who appeared to look up to me as their friend. I felt that I had their confidence, and knew well that the charm of this powerful influence would have been dissipated by the very first sentence that I might have delivered bearing directly on the subject of an exchange of their country. All their hopes in my friendship would have vanished, and the issue, I am confident, would have been *a total failure*, besides a loss of their confidence in the future.

Our Council met the next day (Tuesday,) at 10 o'clock. There had been the evening before a severe storm of thunder, and lightning, and rain. The morning was bright, and calm, and beautiful. I told them I could not help thinking that the confusion and storm of last night, its restless and unsettled character, and the suffering which every thing around appeared to endure, was an emblem of their own past lives. They had never been a composed and settled people, but were, like the [illegible] excitement, and knew no rest. They answered, "*it is so.*" But this morning, I continued, is calm and beautiful, and I cannot help hoping that the Great Spirit has sent it as an emblem of what your future lives are to be. They said "it did look a good deal like it." Four of the missionaries being present, having come that morning on my invitation to attend the Council; I added, the business we are about to engage in, being viewed by *me* of the greatest importance, and as the Great Spirit directs and governs all things, and takes pleasure in seeing his children happy, it is my wish, if you have no objection, that our aged Father Bell would ask the Great Spirit to smile upon our Council, and direct our deliberations to a happy and prosperous issue; that, in their Great Father's Great Council in Washington, a good man, every morning spoke to the Great Spirit, and asked for direction in all things, and to bless their deliberations. They answered, "it will be very agreeable to us;" when this excellent, and useful, and venerable missionary prayed, accordingly. I then told them I had a great respect for the pipe; it was an emblem of peace and friendship; that I brought a long and handsome one, made by their brothers on the other side of the Mississippi, which, if one of their young men would fill and light, we would smoke. They answered, "that is good; the pipe is the Indian's—we will be glad to smoke." It was lit, and smoked accordingly.

I then told them I was ready to hear them: and, as they had spoken of troubles, I would listen attentively to them, and promised to relieve them all I could. (These I will have the honor to hand to you on my return, with a statement of my reply, and what I did towards a relief of their grievances.)

Having heard all they had to say, and noted it all down, I told them I would now make good my word, by shewing them that I was their friend, and give them advice, which, I doubted not, they would follow; that to have all well understood, and that their interpreter might be able the better to interpret it, I had written it down, and would read it. They spoke and said, "We will be glad to hear you." I then delivered the address, and the Council rose at about one o'clock. In the afternoon they assembled, by themselves, to deliberate; and, in two hours, sent me word they had agreed to all I had said, and asked for my paper, from which to make out their answer. By twelve o'clock at night the whole business was closed.

I hope I may be excused for including, in this report, the foregoing detail. It will, no doubt, be tedious, but I mean it to take the place of the usual accompaniment of a separate paper, containing the proceedings of such Councils.

I will now proceed to offer some remarks on the terms proposed for an exchange of country with those people, and which they are sincere in their desire to carry into effect; and upon the probable cost attending their execution.

The reasonableness in the liberty proposed to be granted to them, first, to examine the country, will not be disputed; nor will, it is presumed, the stipulation which provides that the cost of the examination shall be ours. The justice of both is too apparent to need illustration or justification. The proposition to emigrate comes from us, not from them. The cost of looking at the country to which they are invited to go, and which we propose to give them in exchange for theirs, it were time thrown away to attempt to prove should be ours. And as little would it comport with justice, for us to ask them to leave their homes, and such comforts as they have here, without providing them with homes as good there, and comforts of, at least, equal extent. Their workshops, and their mills, though few in number, and common enough, are the labor of their own hands, and should not be asked of them without an equivalent, not in quantity only, but in kind, and even improved. They should not be left to toil again in their erection. A want of skill quadruples the labor, if performed by them, and the absence of science multiplies it even beyond that. The work should be done for them. As to their stock, it is their personal wealth, and not attaching to the soil here, and being indispensable to them any where, it should not be considered a burden to replace it for them, and at our cost, at their new homes. Their's they could not get there, and it would not comport with our magnanimity as a great nation, to ask them to sell, and give us the money wherewith to purchase more. When they shall sell, they will need the proceeds to pay off their debts, settle up their affairs here, and should any be left, it will be needed wherewith to secure those little comforts, which, as human beings, they may require in a new country; and for which there is no provision in the terms of exchange, not even the usual one of support for a year after they shall arrive at their new homes. This, then, will be the only item for which we do not receive, at least, a partial equivalent here, in the increased value which their houses, and fences, &c. will add to the lands proposed to be left by them; unless, indeed, it be thought proper to count the cost of supporting the Government of the Territory proposed to be established over them, and of the county schools. These latter, we are bound, in common justice, to support any where, if we mean to maintain our character for an enlightened, and human, and Christian people; and, as to the former, or both, what, I ask, is their cost, compared with the proceeds of all this vast and fine country which they propose to abandon? Nor will it be thought unreasonable that they should be made secure in the new country to which they propose to go; because here they lie down and rise up in the most perfect security; there, their fears, at least, may be alarmed, if no more. It becomes us, therefore, to see to their security; justice and humanity both demand it.

It is presumed that no exception will be taken to their having a Government, or their being represented in the manner stipulated in the Congress. Both measures are right in themselves; and as to the privilege of sending a Delegate to Congress, if the privilege of living under a Government be ceded, it appears to follow as a consequence, and a consequence no less important to ourselves than to them. This connecting tie between the Territorial Government there, and the Congress here, it is presumed would be esteemed indispensable. But, if there be any exceptions taken to it, they can be those only arising out of prejudice, and this feeling it is easier to meet and overcome by precedent, than argument. In compliment to it, therefore, I will refer to a similar privilege, guarantied in 1785, I think, and in the 12th article of the Treaty of Hopewell. If I am not mistaken, the provision is in these words:

"*That the Indians* (meaning the Cherokees) *may have full confidence in the justice of the United States respecting their interests, they shall have the right to send a deputy of* THEIR OWN CHOICE, *whenever they think fit, to Congress.*" This may suffice.

It may possibly be thought, by some, that money should have been proposed as an equivalent for the enumerated improvements which it is proposed to abandon, and on the grounds that the Government would be saved the trouble of building and putting up houses and mills, and fences, &c. in their new country. I could not, in my conscience, recommend this. All who know any thing of the Indian character, know how improvident they are, and will admit that a moneyed consideration would be a fruitful source of evil to them, and would doubtless render a majority of them homeless and houseless for the rest of their lives. A recent illustration has been had of the impoverishing effects of a money payment, in the Creeks. I believe them to be poorer, and to have suffered more, since they received the large amount secured to them under the Treaty of Washington, than they have been for twenty years before. Besides, it will not be a task of such difficult accomplishment, nor will the cost be so enormous, as, perhaps, at first view, it might appear, and this I proceed now to show.

In regard to the first, the whole undertaking should be upon contracts in the usual form of public advertisement, and by bond and security for the faithful execution of the trust. There should be three contracts; one for building houses and mills one for putting up fences and planting orchards, and one for supplying the stock, &c. Commissioners should be appointed to examine and report the kind and sizes and number of houses, and the quantity of fences and orchards, &c. here. And now for the probable cost.

The population of the Chickasaw nation, may be put down at four thousand; they having increased about four hundred within the last five or six years. I will suppose the families to average five souls each, which will give eight hundred houses. These houses, judging from what I have seen, and from inquiries made, with a view to the estimate, may be built, with the addition of puncheon floors, for an average cost of one hundred and fifty dollars. This I think *a high estimate*. The most of them I have seen, are of rough logs, piled up in a square, with roofs of boards confined down by pins and saplings, and daubed in (such of them as are filled at all) with mud. The chimneys, those that have any, are generally of split or round sticks, put up in squares, and daubed with mud; and the houses are generally small and comfortless, and might, numbers of them, be put up for ten and twenty dollars. But there are some comfortable houses owned by the half and quarter breeds, some of which, and the best of them, (but they are few) may have cost a thousand, and some, including their cribs and stables, &c. two thousand dollars. The estimate of $150 for each family, I think will cover the cost of building, if the country they may select be a wooded country; and they will take care to select no other. This branch of the expenditure then may be put down at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

The number of their mills, it is believed, does not exceed ten. I estimate these to cost an average of five hundred dollars each, which is five thousand dollars.

Their workshops I do not think exceed fifty, which, with their tools, may be estimated at fifty dollars each; or twenty five hundred dollars for this item.

Their orchards are few, and limited in extent, and may be replaced for one thousand dollars.

Their fences may be estimated to cost fifty thousand dollars.

Their stock of all kinds, averaging two horses, and two cows, and five hogs, and a dozen of poultry to each, and the price of a horse at forty dollars, of a cow at ten, a hog at five, and a dozen of poultry at one dollar, will make a total of eighty-four thousand eight hundred dollars.

The probable cost of the visit to examine the country, I estimate at $10,000, and of their removal to it at one hundred thousand dollars.

The total of cost, (except the annual estimate for the Government, the schools, and the military,) is, according to the foregoing estimate, *three hundred and ninety-five thousand eight hundred dollars*—or, suppose a fourth be added, so as to shew *the utmost* extent of cost, it will make the cost 494,750 dollars.

The annual expense on account of the Government, may be assumed to be the same as that of Florida, or Michigan; for the support of schools annually, for twenty years, (where the limit may be fixed) at 50,000 dollars; and for the military, not more than it would require to support ten companies elsewhere; and I assume that this force, if judiciously located, or moved about, would be sufficient, in the present broken state of the Indian power; nor need this be retained but for a few years, as the proposed organization of their own People will doubtless, very soon, supersede the necessity for it.

In regard to the missionary establishments, these would, of course, be broken up here; but these excellent People would follow their present charge to their new homes. Whilst justice would demand that a remuneration of the amount expended by them, over and above that received from the Government, should be made to them, it would, from what I have seen, be fully realized in the extra price which the lands they stand on would bring; and which might be sold, owing to the high state of improvement in most of them, at a

* This reference was, as I found afterwards, to their domestic matters, but especially to their Agency concerns.

great advance. This sum, too, would form part of the fund for the civilization and improvement of the Indians wherever they may settle, as it has been applied here.

I am aware that exceptions are taken by some to the policy of a removal, *even under such circumstances*, or, indeed, under any; but, whenever the time may come for a trial, it can be defended; and, unless I am wholly deceived in the entire scheme, it can be demonstrated to be the *only policy* by which the Indians can be saved, and elevated to that rank of being which there can be no doubt it is the pleasure of their Maker they should enjoy.

I shall leave here to-morrow for the Choctaw Agency, having sent an express, with my greetings, to the Chiefs, and an invitation to meet me at the Agency. I hope to conclude my interview with them by Tuesday next, when I shall pass on to the Cherokees, and thence to the Creeks. Should the Creeks not have concluded to cede that strip of land, I shall endeavor, under your special instructions, to secure it; and will, at the same time, ascertain their dispositions to unite in the plan adopted by the Chickasaws. I can form no opinion of the probable success which may attend my interviews with the remaining tribes, but hope for the best. One thing, I think, may be assumed as certain, and that is, if the Chickasaws become once placed under the kind of Government proposed to be given to them, the other three Southern tribes will follow. It may require time, but they will all, in my opinion, with suitable management, eventually go.

I have the honor to be, &c.

THOMAS L. McKENNEY.

[Here follows the Talk delivered to the Council held with the Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation, at Levi Colbert's, on Tuesday, October 9th, 1827, by Thomas L. McKenney.]

B.

COUNCIL ROOM, OCT 9, 1827.
Chickasaw Nation.

Brother: We have opened our ears wide to your talk; we have not lost a word of it. We came together to meet you as an old friend, and to shake hands with you. We were happy, and our hearts grew big, when we heard you had come to our country. We have always thought of you as our friend; we have confidence in you; we have listened more close, because we think so much of you. We know well you would not deceive us, and we believe you know what is best for us and for our children.

Brother. Do not you forsake us. Our friends, as you told us, are few; we have none to spare; we know that. Brother, you think it will be better for us to take your advice. It has truly made deep impressions on our hearts. Without making a long talk, as you are to leave us in the morning, we will state our terms for an exchange of country. We have no objection to our country; if we could be let alone, we might do well; but we are great sufferers; every thing seems against us, and we will agree to almost any thing that can make our condition better. We believe, if the Government of the United States is honest towards us, and wish us to be a People, and not outcasts always, that we may yet do better. We will now tell you what we will do.

Brother: You would not wish us to move away, and into a country where we could not live, and as well as we live here. Then as you have pointed us out a country on the North of the State of Missouri, and between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, and speak well of it, we agree, first and foremost, to go and look at it, and any other country that we may choose. When twelve of our People, three from each district, have examined it, assisted by a scientific doctor, to see to our health, and by three good white men, to be selected by ourselves, and three of your men of science from Washington, or elsewhere—we say, when we have examined it, if we like it, if its soil is good and well wooded, if water is plenty and good, we will agree to exchange, acre for acre: provided, you, on your part, will mark out the country, and divide it into counties, and leave a place in the centre for a Seat of Government, and then drive every body off of it, and guaranty it to us for ever, and, as soon as may be, divide it for us into farms, and give us a parchment for them to be recorded, with a right to sell to our brothers, with the consent of our Father the President of the United States: and provided, also, that, in addition, you examine our houses, and mills, and fences, and our workshops here, also, our orchards, and build, and put up, and plant as good there, at such places within the territory as we may choose; also, provided you count our stocks here, and put an equal number, and of each kind, within their respective owner's [illegible]; also, provided you establish schools in all the counties, sufficient for the education of our children, and to teach our girls how to spin, and manage household affairs; and provided, also, you send a sufficient force there to ensure our protection, and organize our People into companies like your militia, to be commissioned by our Father the President of the U. States; and provided, that you establish a government over us in all respects like one of your Territories, Michigan, for example, and give the right of suffrage to our People, as they shall be prepared, by education, to vote and act, and allow us, after the territory is organized, a Delegate, like your Territories enjoy, in Congress; and, provided there be allowed to some of our People, reservations, not exceeding twenty, to be surveyed and given to them on parchment, to sell, if they please, like the white man.

Brother: Grant us these terms, better our condition as a People, give us the privileges of men, and, if the country you point us to, or any other we may find, turns out to be acceptable to us, we will treat for exchange upon the above basis. We ask, also, for a millwright, and three blacksmiths; they will be needed by us.

Brother: We are willing to go, next May, in steamboats, from Memphis to St. Louis, and thence over the line, and examine the country thoroughly, and, on the following Spring, then we shall know all the seasons, and how the climate is. Should you think proper to take us at our offer, provide the means, and let us know in time, say by the first of April next. The cost is to be yours, and every thing, and each of our People who may go must have a fine rifle, and horn, and powder, and lead, and plenty of things for an outfit, in provisions, and tobacco, and blankets, and the like.

Brother: Should our offer not be accepted, then we are done. We hope to be let alone where we are, and that your People will be made to treat us like men and Christians, and not like dogs. We tell you now, we want to make our children men and women, and to raise them high as yours in privileges. We will have [illegible] then to do so—now we have not. Brother, understand, nothing is done, unless the country we go to look at suits, and not then, unless all we require is agreed to on your part.

Brother: We shake hands with you, and our hearts go with you. [Signed.]

[Here follows Mr. M'Kenney's answer, detailed in his letter to the Secretary of War.]

CHOCTAW AGENCY,
October 17, 1827 }

SIR: I had the honor of writing you by the last mail from this place, that I expected to hold a council with the Choctaw Chiefs to-day. The arrival of Colonel Leflore at an earlier hour of the afternoon of yesterday than I expected, enabled me to convene the Council a little before sun-down, which I was the more anxious to do, from the peculiarly slow movements of Indians, the tedious process of passing through the mouth of the interpreter, what may be to be said, and, above all, from my increasing anxiety to get home.

I was aware that I should have some obstacles to contend with, of a new and imposing character, and such as it was doubtful whether *any* thing could move. I knew that two Chiefs, *Mushulatubbe* and *Cole*, had been displaced to make way for Colonels Folsom and Leflore, and on the express ground that they were to resist *any and every proposition* that might be made to the nation for a sale or exchange of territory. Then, again, I saw difficulties in the plan of inviting them to another country, other than that which they already claim in Arkansas: and difficulties, on the ground of the objections of that Territory to Indians forming part of its population, in pointing them to their lands there: for, to do this, would destroy the harmony of the plan for uniting them under one head, in a territory, on the plan as approved by the Chickasaws. I concluded, finally, that all things should give way to the proposition as made to the Chicksaws, hoping that their acceptance of it might act as an encouragement, and produce, if *not a prompt acceptance*, at least a willingness to break ground under cover of some pretext, so as to co operate actually in the plan accepted by the Chickasaws, though by *seeming* to reject it. I thought I saw this much in my first interview. It was afterwards confirmed. The Chiefs were bound, I discovered, to reject *openly* any proposition of the sort, or bring upon themselves the charge of inconsistency, and possibly the rebuke, if not chastisement, of the nation. I, nevertheless, resolved to try, and I accordingly addressed them, in the main, upon the same grounds as stated in the copy of my Talk to the Chickasaws, adding some reasons, derived from the question of State Sovereignty and State Rights, and of their operation upon them, and in the simplest forms. It made a deep impression. ——— came to my room, and conversed with me till twelve o'clock at night, palliating his intended objections to the proposition, and yet manifestly approving them. He is an intelligent man, and, withal, ambitious, though honorably so, and felt the influence of a prospect which a Government, and the proposed provisions, held out for his people, as, indeed, did ———, who is also a man of vigorous intellect. But I anticipated the answer which I should receive from them *in council*, and, meanwhile, prepared to elude its force. Indeed, one of the —— told me, in plain terms, it was not possible for the Chiefs even to *seem* to approve it, as before another day, the opposition (meaning the party who had been *unchiefed* by them) would declare they had *sold* their country, which, if it did not result in shooting them by the way side, or cutting their throats, would lose them their influence, and *put it out of their power, after the country should be examined and approved, to lead their people to it as proposed.* He added, it would be much easier to have persons go under any other form, get their report, *and treat afterwards.*

On receiving their verbal answer in council, (which I have the honor herewith to enclose in writing, marked A) I made a reply, pretty much in substance like the answer herewith enclosed, marked B, in which I concluded by the proposition to them to send two men from each of their districts (six persons in number,) to accompany their elder brothers, the Chickasaws, when they might return by the way of Arkansas, and see their country and their friends there. I told them I made the offer on the grounds that their great father would approve of it, and purely to oblige them; but that I could not promise any thing until it should be sanctioned at Washington. You will see their answer on this head in the paper marked A.

I am decidedly of the opinion, from all I can gather, and I have literally sifted these people, that nothing but the recent change in the Chiefs, or rather their pledges to the nation, kept the council from adopting openly, and fully, and cheerfully, *and unanimously*, the proposition submitted. This plan of a Government, and of civil and political privileges, is very agreeable to them, and they think of it with pleasure, yet each feels the possible peril in which a *declaration* might involve him.

They speak much of the failures in the propositions of former times, and doubt the promises made to them; and, whilst upon this head, Leflore went so far in council (as you may see in the written answer to me,) as to say, in substance, that, "*if the guarantees were with me from the confidence in my friendship for them, and had not to pass into other hands, the answer might have been different.*"

The way I consider to be fairly open. It will depend wholly upon those who may go with these Indians in search of a country, whether what has been thus favorably commenced be carried to a successful issue, or shall stop short of it. Upon this part of the subject, I will have the honor to converse with you more at large on my return, and to give, at large, in conversation, my reasons for the belief that the Choctaws, as a People, are even now willing to adopt the offer made to them.

The plan of opening the way, and fixing depots, with suitable inducements and accommodations in the Indian Territory, and comforts by the way, should be *at once* adopted, and be made ready against the return of those who go to look at the country. There is no difficulty in regard to the country. Of this I will satisfy you.

I shall leave here in the morning, early, rain or shine, and lose no time in seeing the other two tribes if I can; *but certainly the Creeks.*

I have the honor to be, with great respect, &c.

THOS L. M'KENNEY.

To the Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

CHOCTAW AGENCY, OCT. 17, 1827.

BELOVED BROTHER: We rejoice to have taken you by the hand, and that the Great Spirit above has given you health and strength to perform a long and tedious road. Our hearts are proud: we have attentively listened to your talk, and, after much thinking and consultation, we are sorry we cannot agree to your proposition of yesterday. It was the talk of a friend. We are thankful for [illegible] that we have been unanimous in declining to accept it. It always gives us pain to disagree to a friend's talk. We are poor and blind People, and need much advice and indulgence. You gave us much good advice. If you had the power to do every thing, and it had not to go into other hands, it might be different. We have confidence in you. We hope to part friends, as we met friends; and although we do not agree to your proposition for an exchange of country, we would have no objection, if our Great Father would permit, although not with any view to exchange our country, to let six of our People go with our older brothers, the Chickasaws, and return home by the way of the Arkansas. We make this proposal because you suggested it in Council.

We now wish you a plain straight path home, and that health and happiness may attend you.

Your friends and brothers.

[Signed.]

[The substance of Mr. McKenney's answer is embraced in his reports to the Secretary of War.]

MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA,
November 17th, 1827.

To the Hon. JAMES BARBOUR:

SIR: I am happy in having it in my power to inform you that articles of agreement and cession were, on the morning of the 15th instant, entered into at the Creek Agency, with the Creeks, and which were concluded at the moment of the arrival of the stage, which left me no time to announce it from there, which secure to the United States *all the lands owned or claimed by them within the chartered limits of Georgia.* This agreement is signed by the Little Prince, the head of the Nation, and five of his principal men, and is to be binding when approved and ratified by the President and Senate on the one hand, and sanctioned on the other by a Council of the Creeks, which, it is stipulated in the articles, shall be immediately convened for the purpose. This sanctioning in Council is required by one of their laws

I left the articles with the Agent, who will attend the Council, and superadd the usual certificate in such cases. The Agent having been previously enjoined to prosecute this subject, if possible, to a favorable issue, is joined in the instrument with me. It is due to him that he should be so associated, no less on account of the powers with which I found him vested, than to the zeal with which I discovered he had endeavored to fulfil your instructions in regard to this matter.

I have time only to add, that the condition money for the land is forty-two thousand five hundred and ninety-one dollars.

I derive an additional gratification in making this communication, from my knowledge of the deep anxiety which you have so long felt to have this controversy settled.

I will make you, as soon after my return as possible, a detailed report of my proceedings under this, as also the other branches of your instructions of 28th March last, and 10th April; and submit, also, views of policy in regard to our Indian relations, especially those of the four Southern Tribes, which have been suggested by a personal inspection of the condition of three of them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. L. McKENNEY.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
Office of Indian Affairs, November 29, 1827.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR:

I proceed, immediately on my return, (deferring my general report on the various subjects connected with my recent tour, to another period) to submit, in brief, as promised in my communication to you from Milledgeville, in Georgia, of the 17th instant, the conclusions I have arrived at, in regard to the policy which I respectfully suggest should prevail in our intercourse with the Indians. I refer especially to that branch of it which embraces the question of emigration and settlement, *without the States and Territories*, and upon lands from which they will never again be requested to remove. These remarks will be confined to the four Southern Tribes, generally, but especially to the Creeks.

Hitherto, the propositions on this subject, as on most others, have been made and concluded under the form of treaties; and there can be no question, but, so far as the past is concerned, that mode was the best. It was best, because the propositions were never unjust or unreasonable, and because the Indians themselves received them in the spirit in which they were conveyed, f[illegible] *from those intervening and counteracting agencies which have, of late years, been so industriously employed, and now work so busily and selfishly, in governing their decisions; and which seldom fail in fixing these in opposition to the policy of the Government, or in the exaction of such terms as are inadmissible.* This influence has become paramount among the Creeks; and to it may be attributed, in great part, if not wholly, the difficulties which have lain in the way of an earlier settlement of the recent Creek controversy. In proof of this, I have only to remark, that it was not until I had met the Creeks in a third Council, that I could succeed with them; nor then, until, in their midst, I demonstrated the cupidity and bad counsels of *one* of these interfering agents, and assuming the responsibility, broke him on the spot, by announcing, in the name of the President of the United States, that, for the reasons then assigned, no communications of any sort would be received by the President from the Creek nation, if that man had any agency whatever in it. This broke the spell of their opposition, and the agreement was made.

I have come to the conclusion—(I refer now mainly to the Creeks)—and, from close and personal observation, that no treaty can be concluded with these People *as such*; and that, whatever may be attempted in this way, will be with persons, not of the Creek Nation, but such as have artfully insinuated themselves into their confidence, and who govern their councils.

From this may be inferred the ignorance and weakness of the Creeks—and the inference is just. Conscious of their own inefficiency to manage for themselves their concerns, they have yielded to this state of dependence on others. But this is not all. They are a wretched People. Poverty and distress are visible every where, and these have become entailed upon them by habitual drunkenness. No man, who has the feelings of a man, can go through their country and see their total abandonment to this vice, without emotions of the most painful kind. I hold their recovery from it, and from its long train of miseries, *whilst they retain their present relations to the States, to be hopeless.* No human agency can reform them, as a People. It is vain to try. They are a devoted People, and destruction lies just before them. Humanity and justice unite in calling loudly upon the Government, as a parent, promptly to interfere and save them.

They feel the miseries of their condition; and many of them look most imploringly for help. I believe they would submit cheerfully to be guided by the Government, in regard to any new relations which it might be thought proper to establish for them. But those influences under the direction of which they have placed themselves, would counteract the kindest designs, unless the measures which may be adopted for bettering their condition, shall be accompanied by a power that shall cause these interested People to cease their interfering agencies. And this, in my opinion, is within the range of a sound policy; nor will the exercise of it conflict with any one of the great principles upon which rest justice, or mercy, or the freedom of the citizen. It will be found to lie—

First—In the preparation of a *suitable* (and none other should be offered to them) and last home for these unfortunate People; and,

Second—In providing suitable means and support for their transportation; and, taking them kindly, but *firmly*, by the hand, and telling them *they must go and enjoy it*; and,

Lastly—In letting those persons who interfere in such matters know, that the object of the Government being kind to the Indians, and intended wholly to better their condition, its determination is final; and that no persons will be permitted, with impunity, to interfere in it. To sustain this last position, the *presence* of a few troops only would be required.

I would have it distinctly understood, that a reasonable number of reservations should be granted; and that they should be given in fee simple to those who might prefer to remain.

This policy applies, in its fullest extent, to the Creeks. I confine it, in this extent, to this People, not because it is not, in a great degree, applicable to others; but because I consider the way to be wide open for the Chickasaws and Choctaws; and, therefore, no illustrations in reference to them are needed.

In regard to these, (the Chickasaws and Choctaws,) I believe it will only be required to make the provision, and, as has been more fully explained in my [illegible] the 10th and 17th October, marked A, [illegible] they will go. I believe, also, the [illegible] Cherokees would follow; and, upon a bare [illegible] of the plan which has been recommended, the establishment of a suitable system for their transportation, and an invitation to them to go and join their brothers.

I did not, as you are aware, visit the Cherokees. It was my wish to have seen them, and, in pursuance of your instructions, make known the views and wishes of the Government to them, also. My time, I found, would not hold out, and, if it had been longer, I must have arrived in their country at the period when the Commissioners were engaged in negotiating for the privilege of uniting, by means of a canal, through their country, the waters of Canssago and Hiwassee; and I should have deemed it prudent, even with time enough to have visited them, not to distract their councils by calling off their attention to any other subject. Of the Cherokees, it is due that I should speak from my knowledge, obtained, however, otherwise than by personal observation, in terms of high commendation. They have done much for themselves. It has been their good fortune to have had born among them some great men. Of these, the late Charles Hicks stood pre-eminent. Under his wisdom, which was guided by virtues of a rare quality, these People have been elevated, in privileges of every local description, high above their neighbors. *They seek to be a People*; and to maintain by law and good Government, those principles which maintain the security of persons, defend the rights of property, &c.; they deserve to be respected, and to be helped; but, with the kindest regards to them, and with a firm conviction in the propriety and truth of the remark, *they ought not to be encouraged in forming a Constitution and Government within a State of the Republic, to exist and operate independently of our laws.* The sooner they have the assurance given them that this cannot be permitted, the better it will be for them. If they will agree to come at once under our laws, and be merged as citizens in our privileges, would it be objected against? But, if they will not, then no People of all the Indians within our limits are better qualified to go into a Territory, such as it is proposed to provide for our Indians, and, [illegible] by their superior [illegible] confer, under a suitable form of Government, benefits upon the Indian race. They are wise enough, I think, to see this, and magnanimous enough to undertake it. For my own part, I am solicitous for their happiness and prosperity; and, being conscious that their hopes must rest ultimately upon such a home as the Chickasaws have, with such a display of wisdom, determined to go and provide for themselves, I cannot but believe that a great majority of the Cherokees will consent to join them.

In conclusion, I respectfully suggest, that a suitable provision be made by the Congress, to be placed at the disposition of the Executive: First, for defraying the expense of the Chickasaws, who have agreed to go and look for a country, and with a view to its occupancy, upon the terms which they have stipulated, and, as will be seen on referring to my report of the 10th October, marked B, herewith submitted, and of the six Choctaws, who are, by the assent of their nation, to go with them. This I have estimated at $10,000; but this estimate was confined to the Chickasaws; I would suggest that $5,000 more be added, making 15,000 for this object.

To this may be added, for the present, $100,000, to be made applicable, in the discretion of the Executive, to the object of Indian emigration generally.

It will be time enough, after the country is chosen, to provide the means to extinguish the title or titles of the present occupants, and for other objects connected with the plan of settling it, &c. as proposed.

Various illustrations might be added, confirming, in my view of it, the importance of the policy which I have only glanced at, and these should have been added, but for want of time; enough only I find to be left for me to run out this meagre outline, which is respectfully submitted to your better judgment, and, if it be your pleasure, to the wisdom of Congress.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. L. M'KENNEY.

[The above concludes the portion of documents sent from the Department of War.]